represented by anyone other than the Cabinet Minister. That is the normal Parliamentary practice. This cannot be done. I object to this. You Kindly adjourn the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Let there be more Cabinet Ministers. What is the harm? I don't blame Shri Sikander Bakht Ji. He cannot manage. *(Interruptions)* ... सर, मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूं । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: MR. Salim, Let me say something on this. You please take your seat.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : सर, मैं एसोसिएट नहीं कर रहा, मैं यह बता रहा था कि शहीद भगत सिंह की एक मूर्ति दिल्ली के म्युनिसपल कारपोरेशन के गोदाम में पड़ी हुई है ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, शहीद भगत सिंह की मूर्ति यहां दिल्ली में गोदाम में पड़ी धूल खा रही है । इसको भी लगाना चाहिए । अगर वह नहीं लगाते तो हमें दे दें, हम लगाएंगे । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

†**شری محمد سلیم:** سر۔ میں ایسوسی ایٹ نہیں کر رہا ہوں۔ میں یہ بتا رہا تھا کہ شہید بھگت سنگھ کی ایک مورتی دہلی کے میونسپل کارپوریشن کے گودام میں پڑی ہوئی ہے ..."مداخلت"... سر ۔ شہید بھگت سنگھ کی مورتی یہاں دہلی میں گودام میں پڑی دھول کھا رہی ہے۔ اسکو بھی لگانا چاہئے۔ اگر وہ نہیں لگاتے تو ہمیں دیویں ہم لگائیں گے اسے ..."مداخلت"...

सभापति : प्लीज, प्लीज, प्लीज । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (**हिमाचल प्रदेश**) : आज तक क्यों नहीं लगाई ? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन दिल्ली आप चलाते हैं, आपकी पार्टी की सरकार है वहां । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script

SHRI MD. SALIM: I am talking about the Delhi Municipal Corporation. I am not talking of the Government.

सभापति : प्लीज । अच्छा, बैठिए, बैठ जाइए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... प्लीज, प्लीज ।

...(**व्यवधान**)... आप बैठिए ।

जो बात कटारिया जी ने कही, अगर वह कमेटी बनी थी और शहीदों के लिए कमेटी बनी थी लेकिन आज तक उसकी कोई मीटिंग नहीं हुई तो यह बहुत दुखदायी बात है और मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार इनकी बात को सुनकर वह कमेटी जैसी बनी थी, बढ़ाकर , कम्प्लीट करके पूरी करके, शहीदों की याद के लिए जो कुछ करना है, वह सरकार करेगी ।

Alleged Mismanagement of Maharashtra State Electricity Board

Shri S.B. Chavan (Maharashtra) : Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this very important issue with a stipulation that the Leader of the House had promised the other day that the Prime Minister would be able to clarify the position about what is happening in Maharashtra. A very alarming and a very disturbing situation has been brought to our notice by some of the leading newspapers in Maharashtra that one of the sets in Chandrapur is a 500 megawatt set for which external aid was sought, Rs. 2,000 crores were spent on this project, and after about two years it is being given to understand that this is being sold to a private party at a cost of Rs. 800 crores . Where the investment is of the order of Rs. 2,000 crores, the set is being sold at Rs. 800 crores and the reason given is that there is a perpetual loss to the Electricity Board, they are not able to make both ends meet and that is why they are now prepared to sell not only one set, I am again given to understand that six sets of 120 megawatts, gas-based power stations located at Uran are also proposed to be sold to private parties. There is one more set at Nasik, a 210-megawatt set. It is also proposed to be sold to private parties, and I am also given to understand that they will receive Rs. 800 crores and thereafter it will be

leased out to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. This is a very extraordinary situation which we are not able to understand. I am given to understand that the monthly expenditure is of the order of Rs. 840 croress. They are recovering about Rs. 40 crores and the rest of the money they just don't have. That means the amount of money that they are going to get even from the private parties is going to be spent as revenue expenditure. If the money which they are getting is going to be spent as revenue expenditure for payment of regular monthly bills to either the employees or others, then, of course, it would be a very extraordinary situation which needs to be looked into by the Government of India. Mightbe, at some stage, the hon. Members can ask, "After all, it is a State subject. How can you raise it here?"

I would like to mention another factor and that is about one multi-national company called "Enron". They have also completed their erection and they are going to start generation of power and they have thereatened that of the cheaper electricity which is being produced by TATA and BASES, almost 8 million units will have to be given up so that they have to purchase only from Enron. As regards this Enron project, a counter-guarantee was given by the Government of India. Now the new Government seems to have made an announcement—I do not know about it—on the very first day that the State Government have been empowered to invite foreign investment on electricity generation to a limit of Rs. 1,500 crores. They can enter into negotiations and finalise the deals up to that amount. They need not come to the Government of India at all. I doubt whether they will be able to do anything unless the Government of India gives a counter-guarantee. These are all matters which definitely need to be gone into. The employees have given notice that if these sets are going to be sold to private people or if they are going to be given on lease, they will go on strike. If there is going to be a State-wise strike and if there is total mismanagement as is being brought to our notice, I have no doubt in mind that there will be a difficult situation. We have been resisting counter guarantee and insisting that counter-guarantee should not be given to the multinational companies. Even the World Bank in its report has stated that they should face the music themselves. Why should the Government of India give a counter-guarantee for such a proposal? But in spite of all that, the counter-guarantees have been given and that is why there is a very alarming, a very disturbing situation, in Maharashtra. I have no doubt in my mind that this is going to be a first-class crisis in the electricity sector in Maharashtra State, and the Government of India, if the counter-guarantee is invoked, has to shell out the money to the multinational companies. So, this is the situtation which I would like the Prime Minister to clarify. Maybe, I am making this kind of a statement on the basis of a report which I have read. I would like to have the exact position. I would like to know what the prevailing situation in that area is and what is being proposed to be done in order to see that such kind of mismanagement is stopped and the Government of India is not asked to make good the losses, which the multinational companies are going to incur, by way of invoking the counter-guarantee. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) : सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि :-

"राष्ट्रपति ने 25 मार्च, 1998 को ससंद की दोनों सभाओं की सम्मिलित बैठक में कृपया जो अभिभाषण दिया है ,उसके लिए राज्यसभा के सदस्य, जो सभा के वर्तमान सत्र में उपस्थित हैं, राष्ट्रपति के प्रति हार्दिक कृतज्ञता ज्ञापित करते हैं ।"